



Headquarters, US Army North

Office of the Chief of Public Affairs
1400 East Grayson Street, Suite 152
Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234-7000
5aopao@arnorth.army.mil
Tel: 210-221-0015 Fax: 210-221-9289
DSN: 471-XXXX

News Release

Aug. 3, 2007
Release #20070801

Course benefits military, civilian consequence managers

Army North teaches Defense Support of Civil Authorities

By Angela K. Daniel
U.S. Army North Public Affairs

(SAN ANTONIO, Texas) -- For one week at a time, United States Army North brings together people from across agencies and across the world to learn how the Department of Defense supports civil authorities during a disaster.

Army North conducts resident Defense Support of Civil Authorities classes as part of its mission as the Army component of United States Northern Command, the unified command responsible for homeland defense and civil support in the United States.

“(Defense support of civil authorities) is all about getting the right people at the right place at the right time with the right equipment in the right way,” senior instructor Paul Dvorak told students during a recent course in San Antonio, Texas.

Active-duty forces may deploy for disaster response as part of an overall federal effort when federal support is requested by a state. Army North is capable of deploying a task force headquarters or, with augmentation, a joint task force headquarters to command and control those forces during a contingency.

The course focuses on training military members, Department of Defense civilians, and people from other agencies who are interested in homeland defense and civil support.

Master Sgt. Ira Turner took the course to help prepare him for his new position as the operations noncommissioned officer for the Region IV Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer.

“I got an eye opening awareness of all the different kinds of threats that our nation is up against,” Turner said. “The course reinforced for me that I am a part of the nation’s homeland defense through the DSCA mission.”

-- more --

DSCA 2/2/2

Terry Kauff, a fellow student from Air Force North, said participants learn from each other as well as the instructors because the break-out sessions allow great interaction.

Course facilitators deliberately select participants from a broad range of organizations and geographical areas to facilitate discussion within the course, Dvorak said.

“We use a specific formula to obtain the ideal mix of participants,” he said. “We like to have representatives from all the services -- a solid mix of military members and civilians within DoD -- and a mix of people from other agencies, usually FEMA.”

The course introduces participants to national, state, local, and DoD statutes, directives and plans, command and control relationships, and DoD support responsibilities and capabilities with regard to disaster and emergency response. It also explains how DOD fits within the framework of the National Response Plan and how it interfaces with the other agencies leading the response.

“The most important thing for participants to take away from the course is an understanding of how DoD responds to a disaster and the mechanism used to request DoD support,” said course instructor Morris “Mo” Walton.

Each course has a senior mentor who presents his or her personal experiences with defense support of civil authorities.

“Learning about real-world examples of how DSCA works was one of the most valuable parts of the course,” said Cmdr. Richard McLoughlin, a Coast Guard emergency preparedness liaison officer to FEMA Region III.

The course consists of three sequential phases: an initial online phase, the five-day resident course, and an alumni phase in which participants have access to online resources and weekly updates to remain current.

Resident courses are offered about 15 times per year in San Antonio, Texas, Colorado Springs, Colo., and various other locations in the United States.

Those wishing to register for the Phase I course or view the complete list of Phase II resident courses may visit www.usarnorth.org.

(Daniel is an intern in the U.S. Army North Public Affairs Office.)